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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF	:
YASUSHI KATAYAMA	: EXAMINER: MUSA, ABDELNABI O.
SERIAL NO: 10/501,082	:
FILED: JULY 9, 2004	: GROUP ART UNIT: 2446
FOR: INFORMATION PROCESSING APPARATUS AND METHOD, AND COMPUTER PROGRAM	:

REPLY BRIEF TO THE EXAMINER'S ANSWER

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

The present Reply Brief is submitted to point out and respond to erroneous assertions and arguments in the Examiner's Answer (hereafter "EA") mailed on November 20, 2009.

ARGUMENTS/REMARKS

In response to Appellant's arguments that Abe and Jayachandran fail to teach that "the rule decision processing unit is configured to execute determination processing for **determining whether or not the processing according to the processing request is to be executed based on a rule deciding condition descriptor**, and the rule deciding condition descriptor is **determined based on a probability value**," the EA restates assertions in the Office Action dated April 27, 2009.

Specifically, at page 16, the EA asserts that the processing request, as defined by Claim 9, is taught by an information processing request "maintained in t table until a decision is given as to whether or not the entry is a CM, which is based on content of the request received via the data reception unit."

The above-quoted portion of the EA is difficult to understand, because it appears to assert that the processing request itself is not received, as required by Claim 9, but is, instead, maintained in a table while information used to make a decision is received.

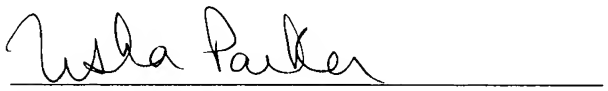
Appellant requests full consideration of the detailed arguments presented in the Appeal Brief, which are not specifically addressed in the EA, and reiterates that Abe and Jayachandran, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest at least "**determining whether or not the processing according to the processing request is to be executed...based on a probability value**," as recited by Claim 9, and the rule decision processing step as defined by Claims 21 and 27.

CONCLUSION

Appellant respectfully submits that the EA fails to rebut the arguments in the Appeal Brief that the Office Action dated April 27, 2009 fails to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness. Therefore, a reversal of the Examiner's decision is again respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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